

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

Claims 1-9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (currently amended): A process for the production of a particulate detergent or detergent premix component comprising the steps of coating a particle comprising one or more alkali metal percarbonates with a flowable acidic component consisting of stearic acid, to form particles wherein the amount of acidic component applied to the particle is governed by the formula $m_c/(m_c + m_p) = c \cdot 1/r$, where m_c is the weight of the acidic component applied, m_p is the weight of the particle, r is the radius of the particle in μm , and c is a factor of 0.5 length units to 20 length units, and wherein the particulate detergent or detergent premix component has a stepped pH profile when contacted with water.

Claim 11 (original): The process of claim 10, wherein the particle has a radius r of 100 μm to 1,000 μm .

Claim 12 (original): The process of claim 10, wherein c is a factor of 5 length units to 10 length units.

Claim 13 (canceled).

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Claim 14 (original): The process of claim 10, wherein the flowable acidic component is solid at room temperature and is applied to the particle in a flowable form at a process temperature above room temperature.

Claim 15 (original): The process of claim 10, wherein the acidic component is applied to the particle over a period of 5 minutes to 20 minutes.

Claims 16-19 (canceled).